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## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

### WAITING FOR CENSURE, DENUNCIATIONS, AND REBUKES

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I use Twitter and have about 65,000 followers, which is pretty modest by Trump standards; but my staff is smart enough to keep the launch code secret from me so that when I say something, we find the right words to express what I want to say, and occasionally, very occasionally, I have a chance to cool down before I fire off a tweet. But this week we learned that one of our colleagues doesn't have a reasonable staff person who helps him think through his tweets.

On Sunday, STEVE KING of Iowa tweeted out his love and praise for the anti-Muslim nationalist candidate in Holland who is running on an explicitly White supremacist platform; anti-immigration, anti-Islam, anti-refugee, anti-people of color. This candidate is the full White nationalist package. And apparently, KING and Geert Wilders are very good friends.

In his tweet, Representative KING says: "Wilders understands that cul-

ture and demographics are our destiny. We cannot restore our civilization with somebody else's babies."

Let that sink in for a moment.

In context, what it means is: A, STEVE KING believes Western civilization is under attack by outsiders; and, B, those outsiders can never be assimilated or be considered part of our civilization.

God knows what Representative KING would think of my grandson who likes to tell me that in this arm he is Puerto Rican and in this one he is Mexican. But he says: "Grandpa, right here, I am 100 percent American."

You think: My grandson, yeah, he is right, and the Congressman from Iowa is wrong. I think my grandson is every bit as American as STEVE KING or I am.

I was born during Jim Crow, when separate but equal was the law of the land. But during my lifetime, we fought segregation and racism, and my daughters have been fighting it even more in their generation, so that exclusion, segregation, and racial hatred are no longer the law of the land.

Now, at least as far as I am concerned, my grandson, who was born in America, is an American, whether STEVE KING likes it or not. Born in Illinois, he is not someone else's baby. He is 100 percent American. He is part of our civilization, and he is the future of America, along with STEVE KING's grandchildren.

Just to be clear, Representative KING's message was warmly received and retweeted by none other than David Duke, the grand wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, who has been a very proud Republican candidate on numerous occasions.

Duke said: "Just in case you were thinking of moving, sanity reigns supreme in Iowa's Fourth Congressional District," and, "God bless STEVE KING."

Oh, but Representative KING was not done. He is never done. He did an inter-

view with an Iowa talk radio show where he discussed "the plan" of television anchorman Jorge Ramos to make White people the minority in America, causing KING to respond that: "I will predict that Hispanics and the Blacks will be fighting each other before that happens."

So what happens when a Member of Congress makes racist remarks? Is he censured? Are his words taken down? Is he rebuked by the leaders of his party?

If he traveled somewhere without getting permission or he accepted a gift without prior approval of Congress, he would be punished. He might even get censured or called out in some way.

But for making racist comments, for supporting a racist candidate in someone else's election, or for saying things that receive high praise from David Duke and the KKK, nothing is going to happen. I have not heard leaders in the Republican Party scrambling to say that STEVE KING does not represent their views on race, religion, diversity, and the threat that "somebody else's babies" pose to American civilization.

A friend of mine in Chicago asked me what I thought was going on when a Member of Congress says such hurtful, xenophobic things, calling, essentially, on Black and Brown people to join in a race war.

The answer is that people like Representative KING feel empowered: empowered by the presence of Steve Bannon, Stephen Miller, Jeff Sessions; empowered by a President who wants us all to fear Muslims, fear Mexicans, and, frankly, fear all Latinos, even my American-born grandson.

This is what happens when American men and women remain silent. When we do not stand up to the bully, the racist, the nationalist, they get more and more empowered. They get more and more empowered, and their actions become more and more normal.

Well, saying that Black and Brown people will be fighting each other and

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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saying that non-White people are somehow somebody else's children and not our children—the children of a nation that believes all men are created equal—well, that is not normal, and the American people will not accept the silence of the majority party when one of their own speaks out in this way.

I am waiting for the censure, the denunciations, and the rebukes. But I suspect I will be waiting a long time.

#### 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAELI EMBASSY BOMBING IN ARGENTINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we will, sadly, commemorate the 25-year anniversary of the terrorist bombing against the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina, which occurred on March 17, 1992. The terror attack also destroyed a Catholic church and a nearby school.

Twenty-nine people lost their lives in this horrific attack, including Israeli diplomats and their spouses, a Catholic priest, and Argentinian citizens, many of whom were children; and nearly 250 others were wounded.

Two years later, on July 18, 1994, over 80 people were murdered in a similar terrorist bombing at the building of the Jewish community organization, also known as AMIA, in Buenos Aires.

These two attacks had many similarities, Mr. Speaker: many innocent people lost their lives or were severely injured; Israelis and Jews were the main target for these horrific attacks; and, unsurprisingly, Iran, the world's foremost state sponsor of terror and its terror proxy group, Hezbollah, were responsible for these attacks.

Yet here we are, 25 years after the Israeli Embassy bombing and 23 years after the AMIA attack, and those responsible for those cowardly acts have yet to be brought to justice.

It hasn't been for lack of evidence, Mr. Speaker. In fact, the Supreme Court of Argentina found that the Iranian-backed—U.S.-, Israel-, and Arab League-designated—Lebanese-based terror group Hezbollah was responsible for the embassy bombing. A preponderance of evidence shows that Iran directed, financed, and assisted Hezbollah in the commission of the terror attack.

Buenos Aires also called for a special prosecutor to investigate the AMIA bombing and appointed special investigator Alberto Nisman to the case. As a result, Argentina issued international arrest warrants for nine Iranian officials in connection with the AMIA bombing after Nisman determined that Iranian proxy Hezbollah was responsible for this heinous act.

Mr. Nisman's commitment to the rule of law and the fight against corruption and terror was unwavering. I had the honor and privilege to call

Alberto a friend and speak with him frequently to discuss the case and Iran's role in these barbaric attacks.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, Alberto was found dead in his apartment in Argentina on January 19, 2015, under mysterious and suspicious circumstances. In December 2015, President Macri made a bold statement, a decision, to create a special prosecutor to investigate Nisman's death, which hopefully will not only uncover the truth surrounding his death, but also could vindicate the work for which Alberto dedicated and maybe even gave his life.

We can honor Alberto's legacy by continuing his work to hold those responsible for the terrorist bombings 25 years ago against the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires and the AMIA bombing in 1994. That is why I am introducing a resolution today alongside Chairman ROYCE, Ranking Member ENGEL, TED DEUTCH, JEFF DUNCAN, and ALBIO SIRES, all of whom lead the way in holding Iran accountable for its cowardly acts of terror.

This resolution, Mr. Speaker, expresses support to the Government of Argentina for its investigation into the terrorist bombing of the Israeli Embassy on March 17, 1992, as well as the AMIA bombing on July 18, 1994. The resolution also commends President Macri for appointing a special investigator in December of last year to examine the 1994 AMIA terrorist attacks.

We are calling on our own government to assist Argentina in any way possible to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice. We also urge responsible nations to work together to fight and defeat international terrorism and its state sponsors like Iran.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this important resolution, to take a moment today to remember those who suffered in Hezbollah's barbaric terrorist attack, and to continue to press those responsible to be brought to justice.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge and personally thank the Argentine Ambassador to the U.S., Martin Lousteau, for being here in the gallery this morning. The Israeli Ambassador to the U.S., Ron Dermer, is represented by Reuven Azar, Deputy Head of Mission at the Israeli Embassy, who was actually born in Argentina. I thank them for being here this morning.

I urge this investigation to go forward with U.S. support as well. I thank them so much, and let us remember the victims of these dastardly attacks today.

#### SPEAKING AGAINST THE AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, in the aftermath of the November election, it has been exciting to watch the

unprecedented outpouring of citizen concern, activism, and, in some cases, outrage. America is finding its voice so Congress can find its spine.

Most recently, the people are demanding Congress be held accountable for the outrageous efforts on behalf of Republicans to dismantle the Affordable Care Act, forcing more expensive coverage for insurance plans that will not be as good and breaking the Trump promise of better, more affordable health care.

It has become clear that the Republican plan would force older Americans between the ages of 50 and 64 to pay 60 percent more for their health insurance coverage.

The Republican plan also seeks to unwind the life-changing expansion under Medicaid that has provided care for the poor, disabled, and lower income and helps people with mental illness and opioid addiction.

Wildly increasing the ranks of the uninsured and lowering the quality of care and affordability is so unacceptable to the American public that it is exposing deep divisions within the Republican ranks.

The wrecking crew is being slowed as public awareness and citizen action spread across the country. This morning, the American public has drawn a new assignment: to resist the Trump budget. It is shocking in its reckless cuts to programs that Americans hold dear.

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What does it say that the cuts proposed to the Environmental Protection Agency are so extreme that even the EPA Administrator, Scott Pruitt, who has made a career out of attacking the EPA, found it too brutal even for him?

The unnecessary expansion of some defense spending, especially the trillion-dollar spending spree that we are embarking on for new nuclear weapons, is completely out of sync with our real defense needs and slashing vital State Department programs that enhance our security.

Trump would not just impose shocking reductions on peacekeeping and humanitarian action, but he would deny the State Department the ability to exercise soft power. This compromises our national security interests and leaves us less safe.

Critical and widely supported life-saving medical research efforts will be slashed, reversing years of bipartisan effort to enhance medical research to fight disease, illness, and disability.

At a time of housing crisis across the country, some of the few Federal tools to increase affordability and combat homelessness are being cut away.

This budget disaster would even zero out Federal support for public broadcasting, even though it represents just a tiny sliver of Federal budget and supports a vital public service. Public broadcasting is supported by an overwhelming majority of Americans, even those who voted for Donald Trump. Appallingly, those cuts would punish